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# ormation Alert

From the National Agricultural Library



United States  
Department of  
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Press Releases — FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

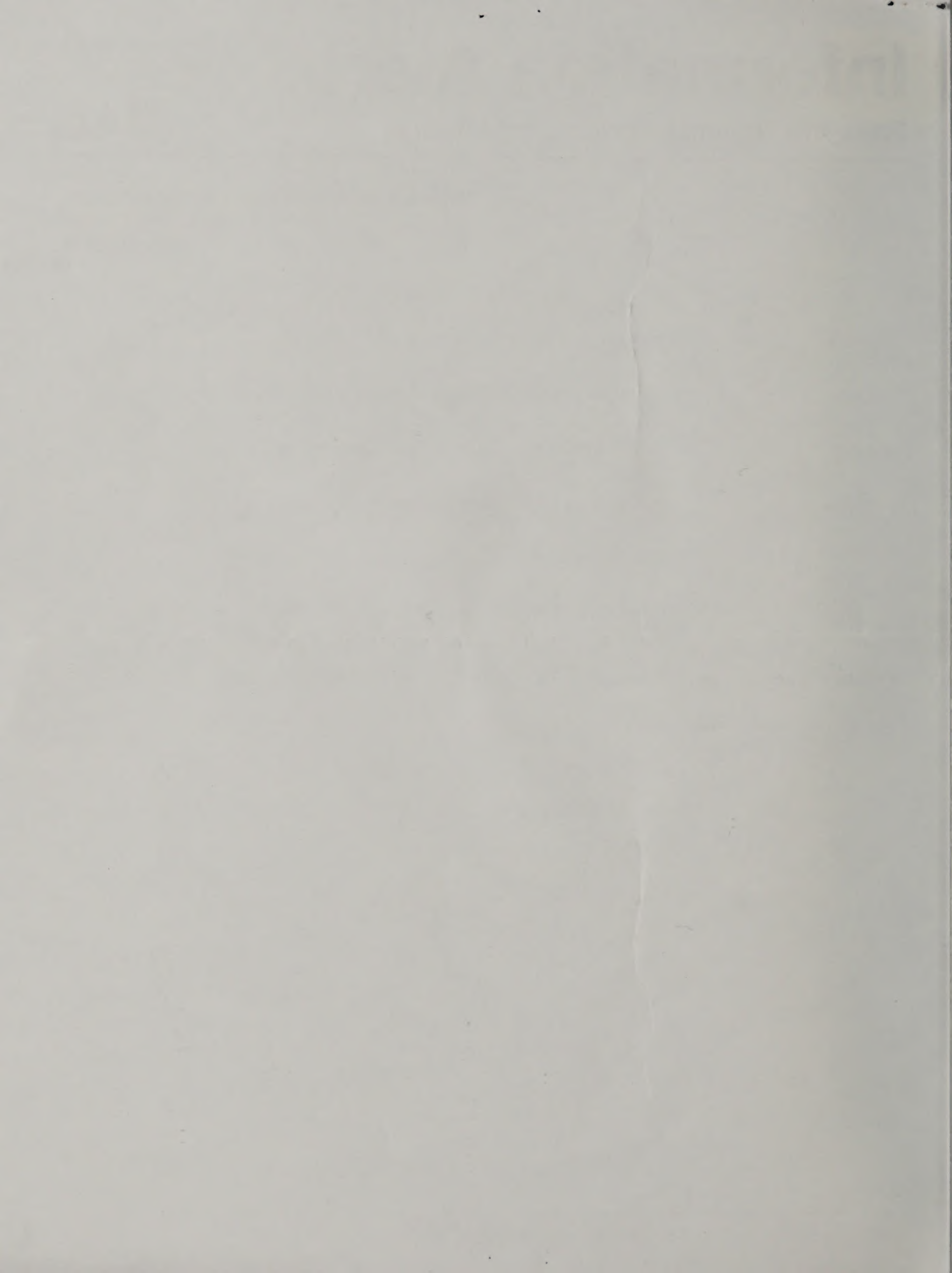
Contact: Brian Norris  
(301) 344-3778

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November 1990





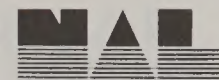
# Information Alert

From the National Agricultural Library

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United States  
Department of  
Agriculture



**Press Release — FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact: Brian Norris**

**(301) 344-3778**

## **National Agricultural Library Exhibits 4-H Memorabilia**

Beltsville, MD — In recognition of National 4-H Week, October 7-13, the National Agricultural Library (NAL) has set up an exhibit featuring 50 years of 4-H memorabilia and photographs. The official opening ceremonies were held in the NAL lobby on October 2. Speaking at the ceremony were Leah Hoopfer, the Deputy Administrator of the National 4-H Program; Russell Weathers, Vice President of the National 4-H Council; and Joseph H. Howard, NAL Director.

Trish Marsh, a Maryland 4-H'er and a freshmen at the University of Maryland, also talked about her 4-H experiences and what being a 4-H'er has meant to her.

"A particularly exciting part of the display is the U.S. and U.S.S.R. youth farm photo exhibit," said Sandy Facinoli, one of the organizers of the exhibit at NAL and also the coordinator of NAL's Youth Development Information Center. "It features 60 prize-winning photographs of farm life taken by members of 4-H and the Soviets' Young Pioneers program."

Facinoli said the U.S.-U.S.S.R. photo display is sponsored by the Eastman Kodak Company and has been on tour throughout the United States and the Soviet Union. "Thirty of the photographs were taken by American children and thirty by Soviet children. The photographs show each country how people in the other country work, play, and live."

The NAL 4-H exhibit also features photographs of 4-H activities dating back 50-years, including photographs of 4-H members with U.S. Presidents from Taft to Reagan.

The exhibit, in the NAL lobby, is open to the public, during the months of October through December. NAL is open Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (except Federal holidays).

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4-H is the youth education program conducted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, state land-grant universities, and county governments. Members of 4-H work on projects that develop self-esteem and leadership skills and contribute to energy conservation, environmental improvement, and community service. The program aids youth in making career decisions and in improving health, nutrition, home, and family relationships.

The National Agricultural Library is the largest agricultural library in the world, containing over 2.1 million volumes and receiving 26,000 current periodical titles from throughout the world. With the Library of Congress and the National Library of Medicine, NAL is one of three national libraries of the United States.

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# Information Alert

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United States  
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Agriculture



Press Release — FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Brian Norris  
(301) 344-3778

## Laser Disk Technology Allows Quick Access to USDA Photos

Beltsville, MD — Imagine storing a warehouse full of photographs in a space barely big enough for a phonograph record. Now imagine being able to retrieve photographs from that collection in seconds. The National Agricultural Library, working closely with the Office of Public Affairs of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, has put together a system to do just this.

NAL employees Alan Fusonie and Ronald Young, together with Bill Hauser, who recently retired from NAL, have developed two laser disks that contain 50,000 current and historic agricultural images. One disk includes historic photographs from the files of the U.S. Forest Service. The other disk has nearly 16,000 images from the current photography files of USDA.

Development of the USDA disk was spurred on by the USDA's Photography Division. "For years, we have been looking for ways to protect our photographs from excessive wear while at the same time improving access to them," said Theodosia Thomas, chief of the division. "When I read about laser disks, I thought they might be the answer."

The disks are about the size of long-playing phonograph records and contain black-and-white photographs, color slides, botanical illustrations and television public service advertisements. Using a computer database developed by NAL staff with software from C-Quest, individual images can be located in seconds and displayed on a monitor.

"This technology allows access to this huge, beautiful collection of agricultural photographs," said Thomas. "In the past, many photographs weren't used because a person could become tired of thumbing through photo files. Now, with the disk system, a person can type in a few key words, let's say 'plow horse,' and in seconds see every plow horse picture we have and get information on ordering copies."

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Fusonic, head of the NAL Special Collections Unit, said the system works to protect photographs by eliminating the need to touch them when perusing the files. "Some of these photographs date back more than 100 years," he said. "They are delicate, yet they have tremendous historical value and should continue to be used in illustrating articles and books. The laser disks cut down on their handling, extending their useful lives."

Thomas thinks the disks will create awareness that the photographs are available. "Because access to the photos has been improved, we expect them to be used more often and seen by more people. This will increase demand for them. It's a snowball effect, which we welcome," she said.

Young said that with the right equipment, copies of the photographs can be printed from the disks and the quality of the print would be good enough to use in many publications. "A person could also download images from the disk using 35mm instant film," he said. "Imagine how these capabilities could be used by editors. Thousands of photographs literally at their fingertips."

Presently, NAL and the USDA Photography Division are working to refine the filing of videotapes and motion picture film on laser disks. The two disks include television public service advertisements in addition to photographs. The ads can be played from the disks or copied onto videotape.

Young said that an important component of the system is the computer software that was developed by a Boston company. The software contains a synonym-based thesaurus which allows the system to make "logical decisions" when searching for photographs. "If you want to see what pictures of streams we have in our files, for example, you enter the term 'stream,'" he said. "The software will search for photographs under the terms 'stream,' 'brook,' 'creek' and probably others."

The disk system, consisting of either the Forest Service or the USDA photo disks and the database is being sold by the Federal Computer Product Center of the National Technical Information Service (NTIS) for about \$500.00. The disks sell for \$95.00 each. The address of NTIS is 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, Virginia 22161, telephone (703) 487-4650. The equipment needed to use the system costs about \$2,500. The search software containing the synonym-based thesaurus is available commercially.

NOTE: This *Information Alert* was previously issued as *USDA News Feature* 963-90, dated July 26, 1990. That release contained an incorrect telephone number for NTIS. The correct number is (703) 487-4650.



# Information Alert

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Press Release – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Brian Norris  
(301) 344-3778

## CORRECTION (Corrects USDA News Feature 963-90)

Beltsville, MD – This *Information Alert* corrects *USDA News Feature* 963-90, dated July 26, 1990. That release titled "Laser Disk Technology Allows Quick Access to USDA Photos" contained an incorrect telephone number for NTIS. The correct number is (703) 487-4650.

For full text of the *USDA News Feature* 963-90, "Laser Disk Technology Allows Quick Access to USDA Photos," see NAL's *Information Alert*, 91-02, October 1990, of the same title.

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# Information Alert

From the National Agricultural Library



United States  
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Press Release — FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Brian Norris

(301) 344-3778

## NAL Changes Subject Terms in AGRICOLA Database

Beltsville, MD — Users of the National Agricultural Library's (NAL) AGRICOLA computer database need to know that beginning with the December 1990 AGRICOLA monthly sale tape, indexing records in AGRICOLA will carry subject terms from the 1990 *CAB Thesaurus*. Since 1985, AGRICOLA had used subject terms from the 1983 edition of the *CAB Thesaurus*.

NAL uses the *CAB Thesaurus*, published by CAB International, to index literature citations to journal articles and book chapters in AGRICOLA. The thesaurus is designed for use in indexing both CAB Abstracts and the AGRICOLA database.

According to Martha Hood, NAL Thesaurus Coordinator, since the 1983 edition of the CAB Thesaurus was published, "the number of subject terms has increased from 48,000 to 56,000, hierarchies have been revised and synonymous and redundant terminology has been weeded out."

Hood said, "The 1990 edition contains improved terminology for indexing biotechnology and immunology and adopts the new classifications for plant viruses approved by the International Committee on Taxonomy of Viruses."

Hood explained that AGRICOLA covers some subjects not within the scope of CAB Abstracts. Approximately 1200 descriptors in these subject areas, primarily human ecology and aspects of food service and food technology, have been added to the thesaurus and are identified with the tag "(AGRICOLA)." American variants of British spellings and usages are included and are clearly identified, Hood said. American variants are used in AGRICOLA indexing and British variants are used in CAB Abstracts indexing.

History notes in the thesaurus are now included to indicate when terms were added, deleted, or changed. These

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history notes only show changes which have occurred since 1988.

Copies of the *CAB Thesaurus* may be purchased in North America by contacting:

CAB International  
845 North Park Avenue  
Tucson, Arizona 85719  
Telephone: (602) 601-7897 or toll-free (800) 528-4841  
Telex: 910-952-1143 AZU TUC  
Fax: (602) 621-3816

For additional information about NAL's use of the thesaurus contact:

Martha Hood, Thesaurus Coordinator  
National Agricultural Library  
Technical Services Division, Indexing Branch  
10301 Baltimore Boulevard  
Beltsville, Maryland 20705  
Telephone: (301) 344-3829

The National Agricultural Library is part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. It is the largest agricultural library in the world, containing over 2.1 million volumes and receiving 26,000 current periodical titles from throughout the world. With the Library of Congress and the National Library of Medicine, NAL is one of three national libraries of the United States.



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Press Release — FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Brian Norris

(301) 344-3778

## Rural Information Available Toll-Free from NAL

Beltsville, MD — An information service to assist rural citizens of the United States improve their communities is now available toll-free, 1-800-633-7701, from the National Agricultural Library's (NAL) Rural Information Center (RIC), which has been in operation nationally since 1988.

According to Patricia John, RIC Coordinator, the toll-free telephone number has been added to make it easier for rural communities to obtain the information they need.

"President Bush's 1990 rural economic development initiative recommended that RIC provide quick, trouble-free access to the nation's rural communities," she said. "We feel that toll-free calling meets that recommendation."

John said the center provides information on rural economic revitalization, local government planning projects, rural health services, funding for rural development projects, research studies, and other topics related to "maintaining the vitality of America's rural areas."

RIC's clientele includes local governments, community organizations, extension services, health professionals, universities, libraries, businesses and citizens of rural communities.

RIC is a joint project of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Extension Service and NAL and is located at the library in Beltsville, Maryland.

"We combine the technical, subject-matter expertise of Extension's nationwide educational network with the resources, including personnel, of NAL, the world's foremost agricultural library," John said.

RIC is one of 15 information centers established by NAL to gather information and provide services on issues of

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critical importance to the agricultural community. Other subjects range from agricultural trade and marketing and animal welfare to food and nutrition and water quality.

The National Agricultural Library is part of USDA. It is the largest agricultural library in the world, containing over 2.1 million volumes and receiving 26,000 current periodical titles from throughout the world. With the Library of Congress and the National Library of Medicine, NAL is one of three national libraries of the United States.

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# Information Alert

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United States  
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Press Release – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Brian Norris  
(301) 344-3778

## Rural Health Information Available at NAL

Beltsville, MD – Communities in the United States can now get information on rural health care issues through the Rural Information Center Health Service (RICHS) at the National Agricultural Library (NAL). RICHS can be reached toll-free by dialing 1-800-633-7701.

The information service began operation in October 1990 and is being funded by NAL and the Office of Rural Health Policy in the Department of Health and Human Services.

RICHS is a clearinghouse for information on a broad range of rural health topics including health service delivery, health personnel, policy, services utilization, financing, and the health status of various groups of Americans.

According to Patricia John, Coordinator of NAL's Rural Information Center, under which RICHS operates, "the targeted user group for RICHS is anyone interested in rural health issues, especially health care professionals, researchers, extension agents, educators, all levels of government, and health-related groups."

John said, that among many services, the RIC/RICHS staff assists rural health groups to obtain answers to health-related questions, acquire research information, and identify funding sources for upgrading rural health programs.

The Rural Information Center is one of 15 information centers established by NAL to gather information and provide services on issues of critical importance to the agricultural community. Some other subjects covered by information centers include: agricultural trade and marketing, alternative farming systems, animal welfare, aquaculture, biotechnology, critical agricultural materials, family, food and nutrition, horticulture, technology transfer, water quality, and youth development.

The National Agricultural Library is part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. It is the largest agricultural

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library in the world, containing over 2.1 million volumes and receiving 26,000 current periodical titles from throughout the world. With the Library of Congress and the National Library of Medicine, NAL is one of three national libraries of the United States.

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# Information Alert

From the National Agricultural Library

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United States  
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**Press Release — FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact: Brian Norris  
(301) 344-3778**

## **New Research Database Available from NAL**

Beltsville, Maryland — The National Agricultural Library (NAL) has developed a computer database containing information on research and education grants awarded by the American Floral Endowment (AFE) since 1961, when AFE was established.

Printed copies of the database are available from NAL or the database can be accessed through NAL's computer bulletin board called ALF (for Agricultural Library Forum).

The database was developed by NAL through a grant from AFE and provides access to information on AFE research and education grants and to citations on publications that resulted from AFE grants.

"This information may be used in grants planning to avoid costly duplication," said Shirley Edwards, head of NAL's Indexing Branch and coordinator of the database project. "The database also can be used to evaluate past and future areas of industry interests and to follow-up on the conduct and documentation of work in progress. It's a valuable reference source for contracts, too."

Edwards said that the database can be searched by grant subject area, project leader/author, title word, university, or state. The database also allows a person to determine the number of records on a particular subject, the total grant money awarded to a university, and other helpful information.

Subject areas included in the database are: economics and marketing of florists' products (ECON), energy (ENER), new crops (NEWC), pest management — diseases and nematodes (PES1), pest management — insects and mites (PES2), plant breeding (PBRE), post-production studies (PPRO), production technology (PTEC), horticulture (HORT), physiology (PHYS), and other areas (OTHR).

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The software required to access the database is dBase III Plus. Edwards said that the database contains two parts; one with grant information and the other with citations to resulting publications.

"Over 400 records are contained in the database and are linked to each other via project numbers," Edwards said. "It is possible to search the two parts of the database together or separately."

To access the database through ALF via a microcomputer-modem system, dial area code 301 and then either 344-8510, 344-8511, 344-5496 or 344-5497. Use the computer settings "n" (no parity), "8" (eight data bits), "1" (one stop bit), full duplex and 1200 or 2400 baud. Answer "None" or "No" to questions about graphics and highlighting that are asked at initial registration.

From the main menu screen (M), type "F" (Files Subsystem). An error-checking method such as XMODEM must be used to download the dBase III Plus files. For assistance in using ALF, Edwards recommended people call the ALF system operator, Karl Schneider, at (301) 344-2113.

Requests for a printed copy of the database should include the NAL call number aSB406.64.D3 and should be addressed to:

NAL Document Delivery Services Branch  
Room 300  
10301 Baltimore Boulevard  
Beltsville, Maryland 20705

Or call (301) 344-3503.

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